The original documents are located in Box 4, folder “12/17/74 - Remarks for the Christmas Ball” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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REMARKS FOR THE CHRISTMAS BALL

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1974
WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS BALL! THIS HAS BEEN A LONG AND DIFFICULT YEAR FOR US ALL SO LET'S MAKE TONIGHT A TIME TO RELAX AND HAVE FUN. YOU KNOW, OUR FOUNDING FATHERS ONLY PROMISED US THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. THE CATCHING UP WITH IT IS SOMETHING WE HAVE TO DO FOR OURSELVES. SO BETTY AND I WANT YOU ALL TO SEE THE DECORATIONS -- ENJOY THE REFRESHMENTS, SING, DANCE AND HAVE A BALL. MAKE ALL THE NOISE YOU WANT. I HAPPEN TO KNOW THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE UPSTAIRS. THEY WON'T COMPLAIN.
IN PARTICULAR, BETTY AND I ARE VERY PLEASED TO HAVE WITH US MICHAEL CARNEY AND HIS ORCHESTRA. MR. CARNEY'S VERY DANCEABLE MUSIC HAS ADDED A HAPPY NOTE TO MANY FESTIVE OCCASIONS AND WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE THIS FINE ORCHESTRA WITH US TONIGHT.

WOULD YOU JOIN WITH ME IN EXPRESSING OUR APPRECIATION?
I GUESS IT IS INEVITABLE AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR TO LOOK BACK AND ASSESS WHAT HAS HAPPENED. FOR ME, 1974 WILL OBVIOUSLY BE ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE YEARS OF MY LIFE.

IN FACT, IN SOME WAYS THAT BIG MICHIGAN CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE BLUE ROOM AND I HAVE A LOT IN COMMON. BOTH THE TREE AND I NEVER EXPECTED TO BE IN THE WHITE HOUSE . . . WE BOTH CAME IN GREEN . . . WE BOTH WERE PUT ON A PEDESTAL . . . AND THEN,

A LITTLE WHILE LATER -- WE BOTH GOT TRIMMED . . .
BUT UNLIKE THAT CHRISTMAS TREE, I'LL STILL BE HERE IN JANUARY -- AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE NEW CONGRESS, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY, TO INSURE THE CONTINUED GROWTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR NATION.
A noted American author, Hamilton Wright Mabie, once wrote: "Blessed is the season that engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love." That season is now upon us -- and the love of God and the love of mankind, is perhaps the ultimate expression of what we sometimes call bipartisanship. "On earth, peace, good will toward men" is also a mandate.
AND SO, IN THIS SPIRIT, LET ME CLOSE WITH A WISH FOR
THE NEW YEAR: MAY WE PLAN AND STRIVE AND ACHIEVE TOGETHER --
AS REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS "SOMETIMES -- BUT AS AMERICANS
ALWAYS. AND FINALLY -- A MORE PERSONAL WISH: MAY YOUR
HAPPINESS BE AS LONG AS SOME OF OUR SPEECHES AND YOUR TROUBLES
AS SHORT AS SOME OF MY TROUSERS! A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

END OF TEXT
TO: THE PRESIDENT

VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN

FROM: PAUL THEJS

SUBJECT: Christmas Ball for Members of Congress

Date and Place of Presidential Use: White House - December 17, 1974

(2:00 p.m.)

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